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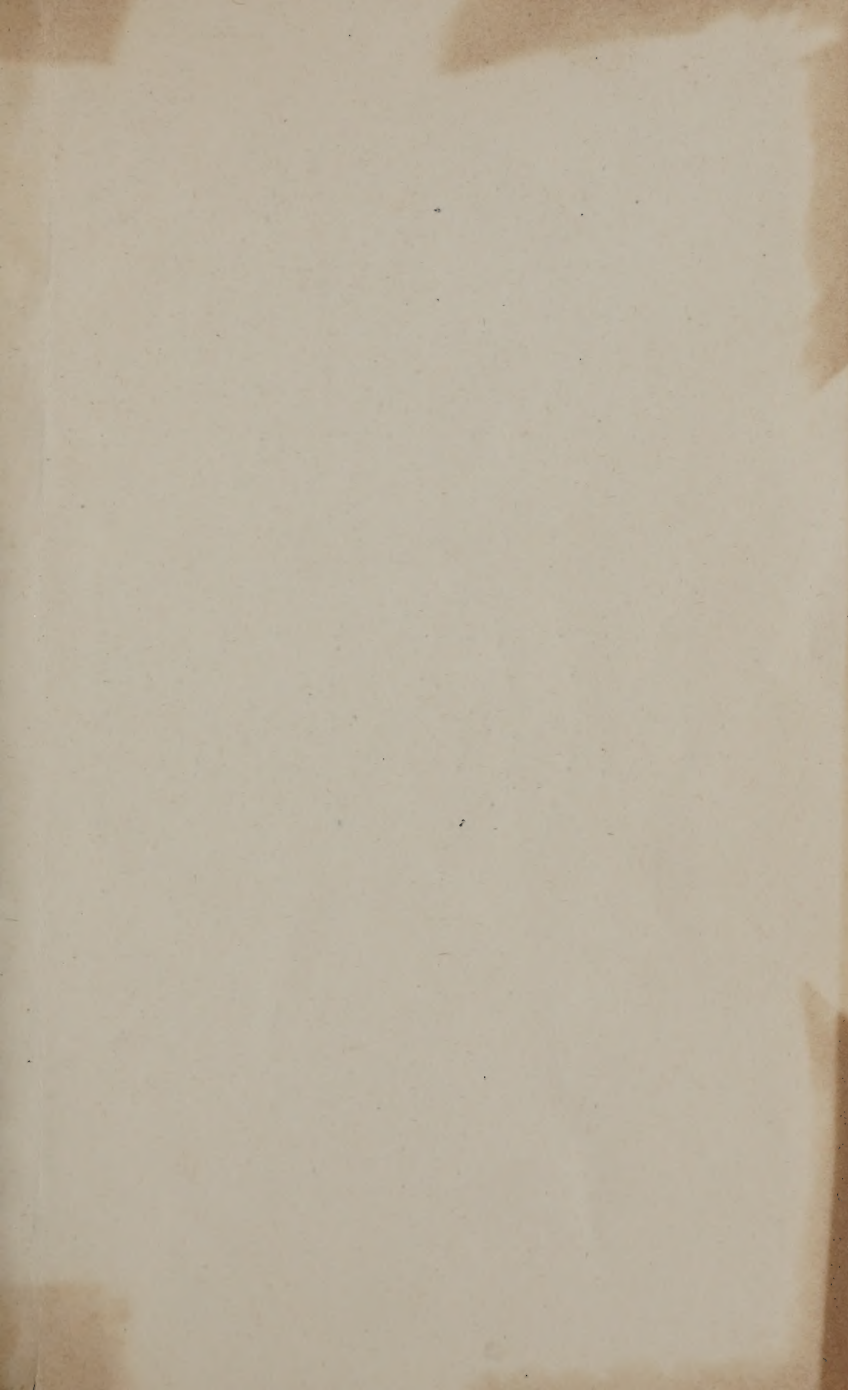
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Page

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Page



RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

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OF THE



SELECTMEN OF STRATHAM,

Commencing March 4th, 1850, and ending March 1st, 1851.

Account with Collector Wiggin.

Amount of tax committed to him for collection for the year 1850,

\$1609,72

Collector's Discharge.

aid State tax,	231,00
" County tax,	320,75
" Selectmen in cash,	1017,54
By highway taxes of non-residents worked out,	16,97
By abatement of taxes,	7,36
Collector for his services,	16,10
	<hr/> \$1609,72

We certify that the Collector's account is rightly cast, well vouched and balanced.

B. D. LAIGHTON, }
J. E. ODELL, } *Auditors.*

Stratham, March 1st, 1851.

Money received by Selectmen.

Received of the Selectmen of cash remaining in their hands at the time of auditing accounts of 1849,	\$742,53
Received of Literary fund,	25,37
" of the town of Portsmouth,	13,80
" of Fire Insurance Company,	2,00
" of the town of Exeter,	24,50
" of Railroad tax,	36,76
" of John French, money borrowed,	200,00
" of James Rollins, " "	100,00
" of Collector Wiggin, in cash,	1017,54
" of Collector Rundlett, in cash,	6,32
" of the County for Paupers supported on the Farm of the town,	213,00
	<hr/> \$2381,83

Selectmen's Discharge.

Outstanding Demands.

- aid Z. J. Wiggin on abatement of William Wiggin's tax of 1848 and interest on the same,
- Widow Abigail Piper on abatement of highway tax of 1849, she not being liable,
- George Wingate for shingles, &c. in 1847,

Paid Sarah Kelly for washing, mending, &c., for James W. Wiggin, 1849,	4,18
" Silas Pearl for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Z. J. Wiggin for conveyance of the State tax to the State Treasurer at Concord, 1849,	3,00
" Charles E. Clark for printing Town Accounts in 1849,	6,00
" Martha Philpot in full for her services in taking care of her father, mother and sister in 1849,	43,00
" Henry P. Wingate and Jonathan Piper for military duty in 1849,	2,00
" Henry P. Wingate for breaking roads in 1849,	1,98
" James Kimball for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Levi Chase for " " "	1,00
" Z. B. French for support of Mary A. French in 1849,	2,50
" " " for oak timber, stone, &c., for bridges in 1848 and interest,	10,37
" Jewett Wiggin for support of Mary A. French in 1849,	5,28
" Noah Piper in full of a note of hand,	111,23
" Daniel Hodgdon for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Noah Piper in full for land damage through the taking of his land for the benefit of the highway in 1849,	8,45
" Jesse Harvey for the support of the Widow Mehitabel Kelly in 1849,	26,68
" Aaron Jewett, interest on a note of hand,	61,70
" Samuel Jones for work on the highway in 1849,	2,50
" Caleb Wiggin for breaking roads in 1849,	1,00
" Elwyn Jewell in full of interest on a note of hand to Feb'y 25, 1850,	50,00
" John Emery for ringing the bell and cleaning Jackson Hall in 1849,	1,00
" DeWitt C. Jewell for performance of milit'y duty in '49,	1,00
" Z. J. Wiggin on abatement of highway taxes work'd out,	2,54
" Zebulon Wiggin for recording tax list of 1849,	2,00
" Joseph Bunning for support of Mary A. French in '49,	13,64
" the town of Sandown for supplies furnished the Widow Irena K. Lang,	7,40
" Thomas Lang his proportion of surplus interest for the years of 1844, '45, '46 & '47,	1,79
" C. H. & H. R. Merrill for flour and molasses on account of a child of B. F. Moore,	,65
" Charles Fifield for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Haven Berry for " " 1848,	1,00
" Andrew Boardman breaking roads in 1848,	,56
" Nathaniel Mason for money expended by him for the benefit of Mrs Abigail Coombs, 1849,	1,00
" Richard Dow an abatement of his tax on the highway, he having paid the same in work,	1,75
" Jesse Merrill for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Betsey Rundlett, her surplus interest for the years of 1845, '46, '47, '48, '49 & '50,	2,19
" Nathan E. Norton for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Levi W. Mason for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Joseph F. Piper for " " "	1,00

Paid James S. Tilton, for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Levi Wiggin in full for a note of hand,	331,99
" James S. Tilton for breaking roads in 1849,	1,28
" Charles A. Wiggin for breaking roads in 1849,	2,16
" John Durgin on an abatement of his poll tax, and that of a cow in 1849, he not being liable,	1,56
" M. C. Lane, military duty in 1849,	1,00
" David R. Diman for breaking roads in 1849,	,50
" James H. Rollins, performance of military duty in '49,	1,00
" Thomas Marston on abatement of his tax of 1849, he being over rated,	2,94
" John E. Wiggin for military duty in 1849,	1,00
" Elisha Chase, Jr. abatement for loss of a cow in 1849.	,12
" John Scammon for his services as Selectman after auditing in 1849,	3,50
" " for Selectmen's and Auditors' expenses after settlement in 1849,	4,00
" Benj. H. Jewett for his services as Selectmen after auditing in 1849,	4,25
" Daniel Wiggin for his services as Selectman after auditing in 1849,	5,25
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	\$783,94

Roads and Bridges.

Paid George Wingate for bridge rail irons,	,50
" Benj. Norris for labor as surveyor over and above his highway tax,	3,00
" Thomas Tuttle for labor as surveyor over and above his highway tax,	1,50
" James Kimball for breaking roads,	22,80
" John E. Wiggin, breaking roads,	10,16
" George Wingate, Jr., breaking roads,	7,84
" Thomas Tuttle for breaking roads,	21,62
" Henry Wiggin for breaking roads,	15,51
" Noah Piper, breaking roads,	2,50
" B. F. Clark, breaking roads,	8,64
" Joseph Taylor for gravel for highway,	2,46
" John O. Wiggin for repairs of bridges,	10,00
" B. F. Clark for repairs of bridges, &c.,	10,43
" Ezra Barker for breaking roads,	13,08
" Samuel Brewster for breaking roads,	19,44
" Jesse Merrill for breaking roads,	,96
" John Smart for repairs of and breaking roads,	5,63
" N. P. & Theodore Wiggin for land damages,	25,68
" George Brackett for his land damages, &c.,	74,21
" Elbridge W. Robinson for his land damages, &c.,	16,47
" Z. B. French for his land damages, &c.,	9,27
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	\$281,75

Expenses of the Poor.

Paid George H. Odell for medical attendance on Irena K. Lang at Town Farm, Hannah B. Kelly and child,	18,50
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Paid Geo. Gardner & Co. for knives, forks, &c. for T. Farm,	1,59
" John Tyrrell for bed-ticking, sheeting, &c.,	12,44
" Supply H. Hodgdon for support and nursing Mary A. French,	9,28
" John Tyrrell for shirting for Benj. Philpot and wife,	1,32
" Ira J. Scammon for support and nursing John Vickery,	20,00
" Geo. H. Odell for medical attendance on John Vickery,	4,50
" Supply H. Hodgdon for support & nurs'g M. A. French,	12,50
" Joseph Bunning for support & nursing Mary A. French,	20,00
" David Robinson for " " Andrew J. Glover,	5,00
" J. Tyrrell for calicoes, sheeting, flannels, &c. for H. B. K.	2,35
" R. H. Smith one pair shoes for H. B. K.	,84
" Joseph Kelly for support and nursing of H. B. K. in part,	8,00
" Geo. Gardner & Co., for calicoes, &c. for H. B. Kelly,	3,00
" Goodwin & Tilton for stoves & funnels for Town Farm,	6,67
" Levi Jewell for use of his carriage to move Mary A. French to the Town Farm,	,40
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	\$126,39

Schools.

Paid District, No. 1,	\$108	Paid District, No. 3,	108
" " 2,	108	" " 4,	108
			<hr/>
			\$432

School-Houses.

Paid Elisha Chase, Jr., Thomas Tuttle, Geo. H. Brewster, & Luther R. Bride for repairs on Sch. House, Dis. No. 1,	15,44
" David R. Diman for repairs on Sch. House, Dis. No. 2,	2,34
" John O. Wiggin repairs of Sch. House, Dis. No. 3,	7,67
" B. F. Clark repairs, &c. of Sch. House, Dis. No. 4,	10,87
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	\$36,32

School Committee.

Paid Elisha Chase, Jr., Prudential,	2,00
" David R. Diman,	2,00
" John O. Wiggin,	2,00
" B. F. Clark,	2,00
" George H. Odell, Superintending,	13,00
" John W. Adams,	7,00
" James W. Rollins,	2,50
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	\$30,50

Militia.

" F. A. Marston for performance of military duty,	3,00
<i>Expense of labor hired and materials purchased for the additional Building at the Town Farm.</i>	
Paid Thomas Tuttle, hewing timber,	5,75
" Nathaniel Gilman for lime,	,90
" David Robinson for work,	3,92
" Asa C. Robinson for work,	32,59
" Peter Folsom for work,	3,75
" David Jewell for work,	9,00
" R. H. & M. Parker for hair,	,75

Paid Z. B. French for work, window sash, glass, &c.	53,50	
" Daniel Wiggin for work,	60,00	
" James Rundlett for work,	27,19	
" Ebenezer H. Berry for cash paid by him,	13,84	
" B. F. Clark for work,	4,00	
" Andrew N. Wiggin for work,	5,50	
" John Lamprey for shingles,	50,72	
		<hr/> \$241,41

Sundry Expenses.

Paid Francis Grant for stationery,		,54
" Rowell & Rowe for sawing for Town Farm,		15,94
" Non-resident tax at Exeter,		9,13
" Charles Kelly for setting grafts at Town Farm,		6,00
" Dudley Chase on an abatement for loss of a horse, cow, and six acres of land that he did not own,		1,56
" J. J. Scammon for repairs of windows in Jackson Hall,		1,00
" Richard Scammon for joists and abatement for loss of a horse,		1,26
" John Lamprey for shingles for town farm barn,		21,00
" Daniel Wiggin for work on town farm barn,		6,29
" Zebulon Wiggin for his services as Town Clerk,		6,00
" " " for recording tax list, postage, &c.		2,58
" Auditors' services,		2,00
" John Scammon as Treas'r of board of Selectmen,		5,00
" " " to Selectmen's expenses to Feb. 28, '51,		7,50
" " stationery,		,75
" Elwyn Jewell one year's interest on a note of hand,		25,00
		<hr/> \$111,55

Daniel Wiggin's Bill.

1850, April 1, to attending Jury meeting,		,25
April 2, 3, 5, 6, & 8, to taking inventory,		6,25
" 12 & 13, to making assessment and other town business,		2,00
June 8, to one day widening roads,		1,25
" 22, to half day on town business,		,50
" 27, to attending Jury meeting,		,25
July 16, to moving Mary A. French from S. H. Hodgdon's to Town Farm,		1,50
Aug. 13, to half day at Town Farm,		,50
" 26, to one day widening roads,		1,25
" 27, to himself and horse to Hampton after shingles for Town Farm,		1,50
Sept. 6, to attending Jury meeting,		,25
Oct. 5, to fourth of a day on qualification of voters,		,25
" 12, to 1 day perambulating line between Stratham and North Hampton,		1,25
" 18, to 1 day running line between Stratham & Greenland,		1,00
Dec. 2, to " " " "		1,00
" 19, to 1-2 day revising Jury box & other town business,		,50
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1851, Feb. 27, to half day in session,	.50
“ 28, to one day at Town Farm,	1,00
to \$1, the same being omitted in last year's ac't,	1,00
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	\$22,00

Benjamin H. Jewett's Bill.

1850, April 1, to attending Jury meeting,	.25
April 2, 3, 5, 6 & 7, to five days taking inventory,	6,25
“ 12 & 13, to two days making assessment, &c.	2,00
“ 17, to one half day examining wood lots,	.50
“ 25, to distributing surveyor's books,	.25
“ 27, to self and horse to Sandown and Hampstead.	4,00
June 4, to widening road on the plains,	.25
“ 8, to one day widening roads,	1,00
“ 22, to going to post office on town business,	.25
“ 25, to going to S. Hodgdon's and Sandy Point,	.50
“ 27, to going to Exeter, .25—attending Jury meeting, .25,	.50
July 16, to going to Town Farm on town business,	.25
Aug. 13, to one half day at Town Farm,	.50
“ 26, to one day widening roads,	1,00
Sept. 6, to attending Jury meeting,	.25
“ 9, to one half day widening roads,	.50
“ 24, to going to farm and post office on town business,	.25
“ 25, to going to Exeter,	.25
Oct. 4, 12, 19, & Nov. 18, to 4 days perambulating town lines,	4,75
Nov. 29, to one half day at Exeter,	.50
Dec. 2, to one day perambulating town lines,	1,00
“ 12, to regulating Jury box, &c.	.50
1851, Jan. 30, to attending Jury meeting,	.25
Feb. 21, to one day making check list, &c.	1,00
“ 27, to one half day in session,	.50
“ 28, to one day at Town Farm,	1,00
to distributing pamphlets,	.25
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	\$28,50

John Scammon's Bill.

1850, to one day settling with Jewett Wiggin, Z. B. French and Joseph Bunning for support of Mary A. French and returning check list to the Town Clerk,	1,00
April 1, to attending Jury meeting,	.25
“ 12 & 13, to two days making assessment of taxes,	2,00
to 1-2 day examining wood-lands,	.62
“ 23, to making, distribution of the highway lists and going to Supply H. Hodgdon's on town business,	1,00
May 13, to going to Simeon Jewell's to qualify him as Pound-keeper and make certificate of the same to the Town Clerk,	.50
“ 24, to making an order on the petition of Geo. Wiggin and others, with three copies of said petition and order thereon and serving the same on the land-holders,	1,50
June 7, to making State, County, School, Town and highway taxes and lists of the same,	8,00
June 8, to one day widening roads,	1,25
“ 22, to writing report of roads widened, .50—1-2 day in session on ac't of J. Vickery, .50—1 day spent on ac't of J. Vickery, \$1,	2,00

Aug. 12, to writing an order of notice on the petition of Z. B. French and others—also, 4 copies and serving the same on Thomas, John L., and Elizabeth Brackett, & D. S. Norton, travel, &c.	2,00
" 13, to one half day at Town Farm,	,50
" 26, to one day widening roads,	1,25
Sept. 2, to one day at Town Farm on account of the new building,	,50
" 26, to attending two Jury meetings,	,50
" 9, to one half day widening roads,	,62
" 20, to drawing one warrant for Town meeting and five copies of the same—one new Check list and posting up the same,	2,00
" 23, to writing report of roads widened, &c. on the petition of James Kimball and others, and Z. B. French and others,	1,25
Oct. 4, to one day as Selectman and Surveyor, perambulating the town line between Exeter and Stratham,	2,00
" 8, to one half day on qualification of voters,	,50
" 12, to one day as Selectmen and Surveyor, perambulating the town line between the towns of Stratham and North Hampton,	2,25
" 16, to going twice to see George Brackett, to settle with him for his land damages,	1,00
" 19, to one day as Selectman and Surveyor, perambulating the town line between the towns of Stratham and Greenland,	2,25
Nov. 18, to one day as Selectman and Surveyor, perambulating the town line between the towns of Stratham and Greenland,	2,25
" 28, to one half day at Exeter on the hearing of A. W. Smith in case of Bastardy,	,75
Dec. 12, to one half day revising Jury box,	,50
Jan. 30, to attending Jury meeting,	,25
Feb'y, to taking 4 depositions on ac't of county paupers, travel, &c.	2,00
to 1 1-2 days settling town accounts when not in session,	1,50
" 22, to writing 1 warrant for annual meet'g & 5 copies of the same,	2,00
" 24, to one day making entry of town accounts on the book when not in session,	1,00
" 27, to one day in session,	1,00
" 28, to one day at Town Farm,	1,00
	<hr/> \$46,99

Recapitulation.

Outstanding demands,	\$783,94
Roads and bridges,	281,75
Expenses of the Poor,	126,39
Schools,	432,00
School Houses,	36,32
School Committee,	30,50
Militia,	3,00
Expense of new building at Town Farm,	241,41
Sundry expenses,	111,55
Selectmen's accounts,	97,49
	<hr/> \$2144,35

We certify that this account is rightly cast and well vouched and the sum of two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and forty-one cents, belonging to the town, remains in the hands of the Selectmen. \$238,41

B. D. LAIGHTON, }
J. E. ODELL, } Auditors.

Stratham, March 1, 1851.

Notes outstanding against the Town.

Elwyn Jewell,	500	
Aaron Jewett,	1000	
Benjamin Moulton,	225	
Jewett Wiggin,	309	
John French,	204	
James Rollins,	102	
Ebenezer H. Berry,	334	
	<hr/>	\$2674
Amount of claims against the town,	2674	
Claims outstanding against the town, other than notes of hand,	250	
	<hr/>	\$2924

Amount of claims due the Town.

Cash in Selectmen's hands,	238,41	
Surplus of hay on Town Farm,	75,00	
	<hr/>	\$313,41
Amount of Town's indebtedness,		\$2610,89

Town Farm.

Expenditures,	367,92	
Superintendent's services,	170,00	
	<hr/>	537,92
Receipts from Farm,	340,42	
From the County,	172,00	
Surplus of hay,	75,00	
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Sum total of receipts,	587,42	
" " expenditures,	537,92	
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Balance in favor of Town Farm,		\$49,50

We, the undersigned, further report that we examined the out-buildings and small house that were upon the farm, and found them to be in such a decayed condition as in our opinion would not justify the spending of any sum of money, however small, in their repairs. The out-side of the easterly end of the large house was also much out of repair, and its room accommodations in case of sickness or an increasing family, very poor and inconvenient. We therefore thought it justifiable, for the comfort of the inmates, convenience of the Superintendents, and interest of the town, to erect a new building thereon, which is now standing at the easterly end of the large house, 25 by 50 feet, 1 & 1-2 stories high, in which there is a good cellar, kitchen, store-room, closets and two good sleeping chambers and granary, also a good commodious wood, carriage, and hog-house, which will probably stand with small repairs for many years.

DANIEL WIGGIN, } *Selectmen*
 JOHN SCAMMON, } *of*
 BENJ. H. JEWETT, } *Stratham.*

Report of the Superintending School Committee of Stratham, for the year ending March, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee having attended to the duties of their office, during the past Summer and Winter, respectfully submit the following

R E P O R T .

Every Teacher, both in the summer and winter School, received as by law required, an examination and a certificate of approbation from your Committee. In order to answer the requisitions of the law, it will be necessary for us to make some particular statement of each School separately, then offer some general remarks.

DISTRICT No. 1.

The Summer School in this district was taught by Miss Anne S. Conner of Exeter. At the commencement of this School the prospect was not very flattering. The School was very large, and the scholars manifested by their deportment, that they felt themselves under scarcely any restraint whatever, and there was so great a variety of books, so many classes, that it was impossible for the teacher to hear them all, with any degree of justice or profit during the usual school hours. Miss C. at first seemed almost discouraged. But by firmness of purpose, and that patience and perseverance characteristic of the female sex, she soon brought her school in subjection. While kindness, zeal and piety, won for her the respect of her scholars. On examination, this school stood second to none in town. Good progress had been made in all the branches taught. Marked improvement in Arithmetic, Reading and Spelling. This school commenced May 20, and closed August 31, continuing three months and 12 days. The whole number of scholars 60, average number 44. Number under 14 years of age, 51. Number over 14 years of age, 9. No. under 4 years, 1. No. in the District not attending school any where between 4 and 14, 5.

The Winter school in this district was taught by Capt. John J. Scammon of this town. It is a pleasure to your Committee to be able to render a favorable report of this school during the year. Mr S. proved himself to be an apt and efficient instructor. He took a great deal of interest in his school, he won the confidence and respect of his pupils, and evidently spared no pains in storing their minds with useful knowledge. Such perfect order as was manifest here, is seldom seen in a common district school. His classes appeared well on examination. It would be difficult to praise one without doing injustice to the rest. In point of order, method of instruction, and progress made, this school claims the full approbation of your Committee.

This school commenced Dec. 2nd, 1850, and closed Feb. 15th, 1851, continuing 10 weeks and 4 days. Whole No. of scholars 50.—Average attendance, 43. No. under 16 years of age, 41. No. over 16 years of age, 9. No. in district between 4 and 16, not attending school anywhere, 22.

DISTRICT No. 2.

The Summer School in this District was kept by Miss Junia Piper of this town. A young lady of some considerable experience in

teaching. The school was quite backward, perhaps as much so, as any school in town. Grammar, particularly, had been almost entirely neglected. Miss P. manifested a good degree of interest in her school. To excite the ambition of her pupils, she gave rewards to those who recited the greatest number of perfect lessons, which seemed to have quite a good effect; on examination this school appeared well, improvement had been made in the various branches pursued, the improvement of this school would compare favorably with the other schools in town. Order had to a good degree been maintained. This school began May 27th, and closed Sept. 12th, continuing three months 19 days and a half. The whole number of scholars, 42. Average attendance, 34. Number over 14 years of age, 0.— Number under 4 years of age, 1.

The Winter School in this District was kept by Mr. James H. Diman of this town. Mr. D. proved himself a very acceptable instructor, both in the government and instruction of his pupils. He entered upon the discharge of his duties with a zeal seldom witnessed among teachers for the instruction of those placed under their charge. He won the affection of his scholars, and so far as the Committee are informed, gave universal satisfaction. The order in this school was very good, and according to his report, he has resorted to severe modes of punishment in but very few cases. Moral suasion is the secret of his success, and an appeal to the conscience, to the intellectual faculties, proved to have more power, more lasting effect than the use of the rod. In a school where such quietness reigns, scholars can hardly fail to make progress in their studies. The improvement in all the branches was very good.

This school began Nov. 18, 1850, and closed Jan. 31st, 1851, continuing ten weeks. Whole number of scholars, 37. Average attendance, 30. Number in district between 4 and 14, not attending school anywhere, 10.

DISTRICT No. 3.

The Summer School in this District was kept by Miss A. Augusta Burleigh from New Market. Miss Burleigh is young and had but little experience in teaching, still the scholars were benefited by her instructions, and she did credit to herself as a teacher. On examination, her classes all appeared well; the advancement made in some of the branches was not so great as we have sometimes witnessed, yet it was evident that the teacher was not unmindful of the necessity of her class understanding every point thoroughly as they advanced. Particular attention was paid to reading and spelling, and that with good success. Order was not quite so good as might have been.

This School began May 27th, and closed August 28th, continuing three months, one week and three days. Whole number of scholars, 41. Average number, 30. Number over 14 years of age 7. Number in district between 4 and 14 not attending school, 5.

The Winter School in this District was taught by Rev. J. M. Wedgewood of this town. Mr. W. is an experienced teacher. His method of instructing is plain, lucid, and he possesses a happy faculty of communicating instruction to the minds of his pupils. Having taught school in this town for several winters in succession, which is a better recommendation than any eulogy from us would be. On examining this school, it appeared that very good progress had been made

in the various branches pursued. The classes in reading and arithmetic appeared remarkably well.

After teaching school for a number of years, without particular care, teachers are liable to hold the reins of government with too easy a hand, and that strict discipline, so essential to the character and progress of the school is in a measure lost sight of.

This School commenced Nov. 25th, 1850 and closed Feb. 1851, continuing 11 weeks. Whole number of Scholars, 57. Average attendance, 40. Number under 16 years of age, 46. Number over 16 years of age, 11.

DISTRICT No. 4.

The Summer School in this District was taught by Miss Augusta H. Rollins of this town. This was Miss R's first school, yet though young and inexperienced, she evidently exerted herself for the improvement of those under her care. Good order was maintained and fair proficiency made in the various branches of learning attended to. This school commenced May 20th and closed Sept. 6, length of the school 16 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 27. Average attendance 20. Number over 14 years of age, 2. Number under 4 years of age, 1. Number between 4 and 14, in District not attending school any where, 6.

The Winter School in this District was kept by Mr. Thomas B. Chesley of Durham. This school is by far the smallest in town, hence many might suppose, should show more marked progress, than schools of 40, or 50 scholars, but in a school so small as this, we think it more difficult to excite that interest and spirit of emulation in learning among scholars, which is exhibited in some of our larger schools. Mr. C. though deficient in some points as a teacher, we believe gave general satisfaction. Some of the classes at examination, appeared well, particularly the class in Arithmetic.

This School commenced November 18, 1850 and, closed Jan. 24th, 1851, continuing 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 24. Average attendance, 20. Number of scholars under 16 years of age, 23. Number over 16, 1. Number in District not attending school, 9.

General Observations.

In visiting the schools in the summer, your Committee found a great variety of books in use, in every district. Fully concurring in the recommendation of the last report, we resolved to "check the evil;" and at the commencement of the winter schools introduced a uniform series of reading books, which much to the credit of the parents were obtained without delay. No other change was made, but from the various kinds in the schools, selected a system of books to be brought into general use. The necessity of having a limited selection, (of books,) every teacher well understands.

The scholar, who uses an extra school book, trespasses on the rights of the others and inflicts an injury upon the whole school. He even wrongs himself, by not having that share of the teacher's attention, which would be bestowed upon a class. (One teacher remarks that his arithmetic classes would have made double the improvement, had they adopted the series of books recommended.) The paltry sum saved by withholding the proper aids to an education, "is to the child an irreparable loss."

Reading has heretofore been sadly neglected in our schools. It is of all acquirements the most to be prized, and the most difficult to attain. It comes into exercise every day, and forms the basis of all other studies. We therefore urged the teachers to devote a large portion of the time to reading. The result

in nearly all of the schools has equalled our expectations. Instead of a dull, prosy and monotonous manner of reading, a lively, forcible style, like conversation has, in a measure, been inculcated.

Spelling, in which a majority of the schools are quite deficient, might be taught more successfully by requiring the scholars to write the words on the slate. As spelling is used in after life only in writing, this appears to be the correct method of acquiring the art. It also assists in learning to write with rapidity, and forms the habit of giving close attention to the construction of words.

The manner of teaching Geography, *by classification*—as practised in one of the winter schools—it is hoped will be generally adopted, Map Drawing, which is a valuable aid in impressing upon the mind the exact shape and situation of the different countries, should be practised in all the schools.

The introduction of Music in many of the schools in neighboring towns, has been attended with excellent effect. It is a pleasing exercise, and can be taught in connexion with other studies, and we invite all teachers, who can sing, to try the experiment.

In government—with few exceptions—our schools have taken a high rank.—And especially deserving of commendation in this respect, were the Summer and Winter schools in district No. 1, and the Winter school in No. 2, could the parents have witnessed the almost perfect stillness, that pervaded the rooms during three and a half hours, we think they would not have been less pleased than were your Committee. Could the same discipline and regularity be continued, we are confident that a high order of scholars would crown the labors of future instructors. Mild, though firm government should characterize every school. To require instant obedience, to correct erroneous habits and actions, is a duty of the first importance. The teacher should inculcate true principles of *politeness*, a respect for their *superiors* and *themselves*. While pupils should be allowed the greatest freedom in the use of proper words, all awkward and uncouth expressions should be discouraged.

The practice of speaking in a low and indistinct tone of voice should be corrected. Every Lesson should be thoroughly studied and recited in a clear voice, without being prompted by the teacher. The scholar should be taught to depend upon his memory, and be able to communicate to others what he understands himself. Such training will not only be of inestimable value to those who continue their education beyond the bounds of the district school, but will also enable the scholar of less pretensions to combat successfully all the hardships of life.

The Common School may be called the stepping stone to success. Affording as it does equal advantages to rich and poor, it cannot fail, if rightly conducted to exert a controlling influence in elevating society. *To free schools alone*, can we look for general education, and through their influence, mainly, must we hope for the continuance of republican institutions.

Considering then the importance of this enterprise, we should endeavor by constant effort to bring to our aid every possible requisite to a good school. To accomplish this it is necessary to have good houses, good teachers and good books. The school room should be neat and convenient. A sufficient number of black-boards should be inserted to accommodate the largest classes, as they may be advantageously used in almost every recitation.

In the selection of teachers, we should look well to the qualifications of those we employ. Let such only be chosen as have been found equal to the task; who can bring to their aid *clear intellect*, *winning manners*, and a *love for the work*. The teacher should be *energetic*; ready to *speak* and *act*. He should be able to make the pupils feel the importance of every moment. He should infuse a spirit of enthusiasm and emulation in every learner—he should be “apt to teach.” A school with such an instructor would far surpass one government by a *tame, slow-moulded* teacher, who had little *zeal* in his profession. With the co-operation of the parents, such a teacher would be able in the language of the Statute “to impress upon the young, the principles of piety and justice; a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance, and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society.”

GEORGE H. ODELL,
JOHN W. ADAMS,
JAMES W. ROLLINS.

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